

14. THE DISTRIBUTION OF CANTOR'S POLYODONT SNAKE,
SIBYNOPHIS SAGITTARIUS (SERPENTES: COLUBRIDAE)

Recently a single specimen of a polyodont snake (330 mm) was picked up by one of us (B.D.S.) from under-stones in the outskirts of Poonch, Jammu and Kashmir which was later identified as *Sibynophis sagittarius* (Cantor).

Boulenger (1890:303) gives its distribution as "Northern India, Bengal and the Nicobar Islands". Wall (1923: *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 29:599-600) recorded it from Western Himalayas, Gangetic Basin and lower Bengal and justifiably questioned its occurrence in Nicobar as attributed to F. A. de Roepstroff. However, a specimen bearing this locality is contained in the collections of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta (Reg. No. 8896). Probably Boulenger (op. cit.) has included the Nicobars in the range of this species based on this disputable record. Smith (1943: FBI, 3:280) gives the range of this species as 'North-eastern India from the Central and United Provinces to Eastern Bengal' and adds "Wall records it from the Western Himalayas". A check up of the available collections

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of this species in the ZSI and Bombay Natural History Society has, however, revealed the fact that it has since been recorded from Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Orissa and southward in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The present record from Poonch extends considerably the northernmost range of this species.

The great gap in distribution as found in the literature on this snake has thus been bridged over and it may be, therefore, concluded that it is not as rare as hitherto believed. Further investigations in the remaining unexplored areas may yet testify the wide spread occurrence of this interesting snake in India whose habits are little known.

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15. NOTE ON NATURAL HISTORY OF *CROCODYLUS PALUSTRIS*

(With a plate)

KEDARHALLA - 1975

Description: The Kedarhalla stream is a minor tributary of the Moyar River which flows from the Kotagiri hills down through narrow chasms in a series of waterfalls. Down near Masipatti where the Nilgiri foothills start to level out, the stream is slower and forms fairly